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NEWS AND NOTES

Mr. Fred J. Seaver, director of the laboratories, left August 15 for Colorado, where he will spend several weeks collecting fungi.

Professor D. R. Sumstine, curator of the fungus collection of the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburg, held a research scholarship at the Garden during the month of July.

Dr. N. L. Britton, director-in-chief, accompanied by Mrs. Britton and Dr. C. Stuart Gager, recently appointed director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, sailed for Cuba August 20 to continue botanical exploration in the western part of that island.

Miss Mary F. Barrett, of the State Normal School at Montclair, New Jersey, spent the month of July at the Garden studying the collections of gelatinous fungi, in preparation of a monograph of this group for North American Flora.

A treatment by F. L. Stevens of the chief fungous diseases of the apple and pear from a practical standpoint appears in bulletin 206 of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, dated March, 1910.

Professor William J. Beal, having completed forty years of continuous service, will resign his professorship in botany at the Agricultural College of Michigan.

Professor John M. Macfarlane, of the University of Pennsylvania, is planning to spend the coming year in study in several botanical centers of Europe.

An extensive illustrated paper on "Les Champignons dits Ambrosia," by J. Beauverie, has very recently appeared (*Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot.* IX. 11: 31-73. *pl.* 1-5. 1910). The fungi considered,

belonging to *Macrophoma*, *Ceratostomella* and *Dematium*, are in symbiotic relation with certain insects that provide them favorable conditions for development in return for substantial nourishment.

The Naples Table Association for Promoting Laboratory Research by Women hereby announces the offer of a fifth prize of one thousand dollars for the best thesis written by a woman, on a scientific subject, embodying new observations and new conclusions based on an independent laboratory research in biological, chemical, or physical science. For further information address the secretary, Mrs. A. D. Mead, 283 Wayland Avenue, Providence, R. I.

Mr. C. W. Edgerton has recently made a careful study of the bean anthracnose in Louisiana (La. Agric. Exper. Sta. Bull. 119: 1-55. pl. 1-14. 1910). He finds that the fungus will not tolerate a continued high temperature and is consequently killed out during the summer months in that latitude. Other micro-organisms in the soil, also, especially a species of *Fusarium*, easily gain entrance to the diseased seed and either rot the seed entirely or run out the anthracnose in the spots. These two natural factors, heat and micro-organisms, are very important in the control of the disease and may be used to greatly lessen its ravages in Louisiana.

The Bulletin from the Laboratories of Natural History of the State University of Iowa (6: 41-219) contains a treatment of the Iowa Discomycetes by Mr. Fred J. Seaver. This paper stands in part as a revision and in part as an extension of the work entitled "The Discomycetes of Eastern Iowa" published by the same author in volume five of said bulletin. The work consists of ninety-one pages of text with a record of one hundred and twenty species, and forty-one plates illustrating ninety-four species. The paper contains no new species and few new combinations, but five species are recorded which have been described and based on Iowa material since the publication of the "Discomycetes of Eastern Iowa." The paper is offered as a contribution from the New York Botanical Garden, no. 133.

Dr. W. A. Murrill, assistant director, recently returned from Virginia with a collection of poisonous fungi, which will be chiefly used for chemical analysis. Returning, he found evidences of the chestnut canker not far from Baltimore, Maryland, and diseased trees became more abundant northward. At Belair, Maryland, seventy-five miles south of Philadelphia, and at Northeast, Maryland, the effects of the canker were very noticeable, most of the chestnut trees being dead or in a dying condition. At Red Bank, New Jersey, where the first chestnut trees were observed near the coast, the disease had become very serious and was noticed from this point all the way to New York City, especially near South Amboy, New Jersey, where whole forests were either killed or badly affected. Throughout the whole of Staten Island not a single healthy chestnut tree was observed; and the same was true of Long Island so far as his observations went.

“Pod-Rot, Canker, and Chupon-Wilt of Cacao caused by *Phytophthora* sp.” is the title of an interesting illustrated article by J. B. Rorer (Bull. Dept. Agric. Trinidad 9: July, 1910). The three diseases mentioned are met with on almost every cacao estate in Trinidad, and probably occur in most of the countries where cacao is grown commercially. Trees exposed to infection should be sprayed four times a year, avoiding the periods of full bloom; and cancerous spots should be cut out and the wounds treated to prevent re-infection from diseased pods.

The Report of the Botanist of New York State for the year 1909, containing 114 pages and 10 colored plates, includes descriptions of several new species; monographs of the New York species of *Inocybe* and *Hebeloma*; a list of edible, poisonous, and unwholesome mushrooms hitherto figured and described by C. H. Peck; and a list of genera whose New York species have been collated with descriptions in the reports of the state botanist.

The new species of fungi here described by Dr. Peck are: *Belonidium Glyceriae*, *Diplodia Hamamelidis*, *Dothiorella divergens*, *Hypholoma Boughtoni*, *Hypholoma rigidipes*, *Marasmius*

alienus, *Phomopsis Stewartii*, *Psilocybe nigrella*, *Septoria sedicola*, *Trametes merisma*, and *Trichosporium variabile*.

A recent bulletin on the subject of "Fire Blight of Pears, Apples, Quinces, etc." (Cornell Univ. Agric. Exper. Sta. Bull. 272: 31-51. 1910), by H. H. Whetzel and V. B. Stewart, gives directions for controlling this disease in the orchard. The method may appear complicated and tedious, but those who are acquainted with fire blight will welcome any method, no matter how exacting, that will control it.

In this connection, it is interesting to note the results of tests made with one of the so-called blight remedies, claimed to render trees immune by the introduction of various substances into the sap. Callahan's Blight Specific was thoroughly tested and proved to be not only worthless as a preventive, but positively injurious, causing heart-rot. The grayish-green powder that was inserted into the trunk according to directions, consisted of sulfur, with a little charcoal to color it and some asafetida to give it an effective odor. The use of such specifics has frequently been recommended for chestnut canker.

"Some Sugar Cane Diseases" (La. Agric. Exper. Sta. Bull. 120: 1-28. 1910), by C. W. Edgerton, may be summarized as follows:

During the past season the sugar planters of Louisiana have had considerable trouble in obtaining good stands of cane. The investigations of the Experiment Station have shown the trouble to be due primarily to several fungous diseases. These diseases have been much more severe this year than in previous years on account of the very dry spring. The dry weather reduced the vitality of the cane and made it more susceptible to the diseases.

The diseases present in the state are the red rot, caused by *Colletotrichum falcatum*, the rind disease, due to *Melanconium Sacchari*, the pineapple disease, due to *Thielaviopsis ethacetica*, and the root rot, caused by *Marasmius plicatus*, one of the gill-fungi. The red rot, rind disease, and root rot are widely distributed over the state, but the pineapple disease is at present only known in one parish.

Each of these diseases is described and the methods of treatment discussed in the above bulletin.

Professor A. D. T. Cockerell, of the University of Colorado, makes some interesting suggestions in a recent number of *Science* (32: 205. 1910) regarding the preservation of type specimens. The appointment of a committee by the American Association is recommended, this committee to investigate and report upon the condition of types in various institutions in this country and to designate certain museums as fit places for their preservation.

The principles enunciated by Professor Cockerell are as follows:

"1. A type is, from its nature, in some sense the property of the scientific world. Thus, every one would consider it a criminal act to purchase and then willingly destroy a type. It must be considered reprehensible to permit types to exist where they are in serious danger of being destroyed, and, in particular, steps should be taken to prevent the sale of types to miscellaneous unknown collectors after the death of the original owner.

"2. Every institution possessing types should publish a complete list of those in its custody, and subsequently annual lists of additions. It can then be held strictly accountable for their care, and students can ascertain where the types are to be seen.

"3. No types should ever be loaned out and, especially, they should never be sent through the mails. Experience shows that institutions which profess to have a rule against the loaning of types can not be trusted to keep it."